

2.2.5 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Objective

- To manage paleontological resources in ways that prioritize research needs, facilitate educational and recreational needs, and protect important sites.

Paleontological Management

PAL-1: Inventories of paleontological resources will focus on the West Arm of the Black Rock Desert, Soldier Meadows and the Black Rock Desert Wilderness.

Note: Other paleontological inventories will be conducted as needed and as funding becomes available.

PAL-2: Paleontological sites will be identified by site type and placed into appropriate paleontological use categories as defined in Appendix F. The emphasis will be conservation that allows for appropriate scientific research. If sites are damaged, use categories may be shifted to provide better protection or easier recovery of scientific values.

PAL-3: The Hanging Rock Petrified Forest area as shown on Maps 2-14a and 2-14b (these are at the end of section 2.2.20 Recreation) will be closed to collecting petrified wood, other fossils, rocks, and minerals unless such collecting is for scientific purposes and authorized by a permit.

PAL-4: Collecting common invertebrates and petrified wood will be allowed, except in the Hanging Rock Petrified Forest, under the same terms stated for rock collection in the decision REC-20.

PAL-5: BLM will encourage scientific research into paleontological resources, including public participation in inventories, digs and laboratory analyses (Appendix E). Information will be disseminated through publications, museums and visitor centers.

Photo Credit *

*Skull of
Mammoth in
Black Rock
Desert*



*Petrified forest
near McConnell
Canyon, 1934*